

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
PRESS RELEASE

**ORLEANS CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE CONSIDERS A ZERO QUORUM, EMERGENCY PLANNING,
AND A TOWN MANAGER**

The Orleans Charter Review Committee continues to welcome suggestions for Charter amendments at charterideas@town.orleans.ma.us. All are entered into a database and are available for viewing under each Chapter number on the CRC's Resource Page at <https://www.town.orleans.ma.us/charter-review-committee/pages/2021-crc-resource-page>. The Resource Page also contains various articles of interest on aspects of town governance.

The CRC has now met with the Town Administrator, Recreation Director, Conservation and Health Agents, Fire and Police Chiefs, Director of Planning and Development, and the Chairs of the Community Preservation Committee, Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, Recreation Advisory Committee, Bikeways and Pedestrian Committee. and waiting to schedule a workshop meeting with the Select Board.

Questions raised include:

- Should there be a zero quorum at Town Meeting? Should speaking limits be reduced from 5 minutes to 2 for all attendees?
- How many multi-member bodies are too many? Can some be combined? How can coordination and duplication be addressed? Should there be a monthly Chairs meeting?
- To save time, should the Select Board delegate its licensing authority to a staff person; and since the Select Board and the Park Commissioners are the same people, should they have one Chair instead of switching back and forth?
- Should the Town Administrator's responsibilities be increased, and its title be changed to a Town Manager?

Other topics include adding a Code of Conduct and representation from the Recreation Advisory Committee on the Community Preservation Committee, among others.

The Charter Review Committee meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month except holidays and welcomes public comment and email suggestions at any time.

Submitted by
Gail Meyers Lavin, Clerk
Fall 2021